Executive Office
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Business Filings
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Uniform Commercial Code
Elections
Information Technology
Management Services
Political Reform



ELECTIONS
1500 - 11th Street, Room 590
Sacramento, CA 95814
P.O. Box 944260
Sacramento, CA 94244-2600
(916) 657-2166 \
Voter Registration Hotline
1-800-345-VOTE
For Hearing and Speech Impaired
Only 1-800-833-8683
(916) 653-3214 FAX
Internet address: ss.ca.gov

Pre-MUB

April 12, 1999

General Counsel's Office Federal Election Commission 999 E. Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

RE: Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D) 10th District

Dear Sir or Madam:

In November 1998, our office was alerted by various citizens and by Rep. Tauscher's staff about a possibly fraudulent mailer sent to democratic voters in her district. Based upon a preliminary review of the allegations, our office opened an investigation into a possible state Election code violation. Recently, a more thorough review by our Chief Counsel revealed that the code allegedly violated (state Government Code 84305) only applied to state contests.

Since the mailer was targeted at the outcome of a Federal Congressional race, your office may be the agency of jurisdiction. Please find enclosed all documents in our possession that pertain to this complaint. If your office is not the correct agency to investigate this complaint, please forward this material to the appropriate federal agency. Thank you for your assistance. If you have questions, I can be reached at (213) 897-6084.

Sincerely,

B. Jerry Ellison

Supervising Special Investigator

Election Fraud Unit

EAST BAY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

"Representing all Democrats

1960 John F. Kenn Antioch, CA 94



Robin Engel Campaign Manager

1270 Springbrook Road Suite G Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Tel: 925-915-8515 Fax: 925-945-8616

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

November 1st, 1998

Dear fellow Democrat,

Election day is drawing near and it is crucial that we support the Democratic team. The Republican party and big business will stop at nothing to derail our positive agenda for working families.

Each year we provide you with the slate of our Democratic team we are supporting. This year we have done the same for all major candidates in the East Bay who have been supportive of our President, Bill Clinton, and the goal of our party including 100,000 new teachers, a Patients Bill of Rights and protection of Social Security.

However, as loyal Democrats, we find it very troubling that Rep. Ellen Tauscher abandoned President Clinton and the Party when she voted with the Republicans to launch an Impeachment Inquiry in the personal life of a truly great President who has accomplished so much for the Democratic Party and working families.

It is with great regret that we will not be supporting the re-election of Rep. Ellen Tauscher because of her votes against the President and against our Party. Her voting with the Republicans on issues such as the impeachment inquiry, stealing from Social Security for tax cuts for the rich and minimum wage make her unacceptable to us.

We know that many Democrats have chosen to send her a message by not voting for her or against her on November 3rd because of her abandonment of the party. They have chosen simply not to vote for either candidate in the race for Congress.

And while we have chosen to not forget how Ellen Tauscher turned her back on our party we ask that you remember to support our Democrat team for the other offices on the ballot on Election day. Unfortunately, we have been left no choice but to send Ellen Tauscher a message. Because she abandoned us, we are abandoning her.

We could not support her opponent. And Ellen Tauscher will win re-election. But it is critical that she receive the message loud and clear. She must support our President to enjoy our support. Not voting for her is the best way for her to receive this message.

Thanks for remembering to support our other loyal Democrat candidates on the ballot on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

George Miller East Bay Democratic Committee REPRESENTING ALL DEMOCRATS IN THE EAST BAY"
ANTROCH, CA 114510

Miller, James L, Jr

Walnut Creek CA 94598-4684

3459A-4684 34



Contra Costa Times 11/3/98 A1,14

ELECTION '98 CONGRESS 10TH DISTRICT

Tauscher target of fake flier

Letters, phone calls from fraudulent 'East Bay Democratic Committee' urge voters not to back her

> By Daniel Borenstein TIMES POLITICAL EDITOR

A sophisticated mail and phone campaign urging East Bay Democratic voters not to support the re-election today of Rep. Ellen Tauscher is

The letter that Democratic voters of the 10th Congressional District received Monday from a group calling itself the "East Bay Democratic Committee" bore a fraudulent return address and carried the name George Miller at the end.

Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, who represents the neighboring congressional district, is a strong supporter of Tauscher. He denounced

"It's outrageous. It also may be illegal," he said. "It was clearly sent through the mail with the purpose of intent to defraud people.

"Obviously it's designed to come at the last minute, it's designed to misuse my name and it's designed to mislead the voters in the 10th District. It's the worst of the kind of material you see in the election cycle.'

Tauscher is embroiled in the Bay Area's most closely watched congressional race. The district is the only one in the Bay Area with a Re-

Flier

FROM PAGE A1

publican plurality. Although a Times poll a month ago showed her leading her Republican opponent, Charles Ball, by a 2-to-1 ratio, national Republican politicians have come out to campaign on Ball's behalf.

Tauscher said Ball must have known about the mailer. She said she suspected it was sent by an independent conservative group on Ball's

"I am deeply disappointed but not surprised that the Ball campaign and their right-wing supporters from outside the district would stoop to such dirty tricks," she said. "Their attempts to impersonate East Bay Democrats and suppress the Democratic vote is an insult to all the voters of this district and to the electoral process."

Ball said he knew nothing about the mailer or phone calls. "I don't think it's proper," he said. "But I don't really know what effect it's going to

His campaign manager, Adrian Plesha, said the campaign had nothing to do with the mailer. "It's not coming from this campaign," he said. "For her to accuse us of being in affiliation with any outside group that would coordinate this type of attack is irresponsible and dangerous."

Democratic voters throughout the 10th District — which includes the Livermore and San Ramon valleys. much of Central and East Contra Costa, and small parts of West Contra Costa - reported receiving the mailers. On Monday afternoon, they also began receiving the phone calls with the same message.

"I got a phone call from someone talking really fast and reminding me to vote for all the Democratic people, but saying they won't be supporting Ellen Tauscher," said Patti Gates, an Antioch school teacher. "I said, 'Where are you calling from?' She paused and then she said 'Michigan.' " Others who asked said they were told the calls were coming from Ottawa, Canada.

Gates said the caller refused to provide a phone number. When Gates attempted to use the automatic call-back feature on her phone, she found the caller's number had been blocked.

Jeanne Raggio of Danville said that, when she received the call, she insisted on talking to a supervisor, who provided her with a toll-free number of someone she was told hired the phone workers.

The toll-free number connects to an answering service for an employee of a Silicon Valley software company. The employee did not return the Times' calls on Monday

Daniel White, chairman of the Contra Costa Democratic Central Committee, said he had never heard of the East Bay Democratic Committee. The return address listed on the envelope of the mailer is "1960 John F. Kennedy Dr." in Antioch. The street does not exist, said city planner Victor Carniglia.

Federal law requires people spending more than \$1,000 to advocate a vote for or against a candidate to report the expenditure to the Federal Elections Commission. A commission spokesperson could not be reached for comment Monday evening.

Miller said he will ask the U.S. Justice Department, Postal Service and Federal Elections Commission to investigate.

See FLIER, Back Page

Phony letter angers 10th District runners

Fraudulent mailing assails Tauscher

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A bogus letter from a nonexistent "East Bay Democratic Committee" drew condemnation Monday from the camps of Democratic Rep. Ellen Tauscher and Republican Charles Ball on the eve of today's election.

Claiming to be from an organization "representing all Democrats in the East Bay," the letter reads: "... many Democrats have chosen to send (Dem-

ocratic Rep. Ellen Tauscher) a message by not voting for her or against her on Nov. 3rd because of her abandonment of the party. They have chosen simply not to vote for either candidate in the race for Congress."

The letter accuses Tauscher of "voting with the Republicans" on the impeachment inquiry and other issues.

Katie Merrill, Tauscher's chief of staff, said she believed the letter had been mailed to all registered Democrats in the 10th Congressional District. She said

Please see Letter, NEWS-8

Letter: Reports of phone campaign

Continued from NEWS-1

Tauscher's office also had received numerous reports of an anonymous "voter suppression" phone bank campaign in which Democrats were being urged: "Don't vote for Ellen Tauscher."

The source of the letter was unknown. The letterhead included a false address of 1960 John F. Kennedy Dr., Antioch CA 94509.

Democratic Rep. George Miller of Martinez condemned the letter, which carried the typewritten name "George Miller" without a signature, as outrageous and fraudulent. He also issued a media advisory for a press conference "regarding the Republican effort to suppress votes."

But Republican candidate Ball's press secretary Bob Hopkins said the letter "smacks of a third party looking to generate a headline." He insisted Ball had nothing to do with the letter's origination or distribution.

"Absolutely not," Hopkins said. "I find the letter reprehensible. It's a shame that this sort of stuff goes on."

Merrill estimated that the mailing may have cost as much as \$125,000.

mailer, calls awsuit targets p

■ Miller, Democratic Party have known about effort to derail Tauscher re-election claim GOP's Ball should

By Daniel Borenstein bid in the 10th District TIMES POLITICAL EDITOR

mocratic Party sued GOP congres-sional candidate Charles Ball and his While voters were going to the polls, Rep. George Miller and the Depaign maller and phone operation. by Democrats on the eve of Election Day, was sent our with Miller's name

on the letterhead of a fictitious group called the East Bay Democratic Committee. It urged voters not to support Rep. Ellen Tauscher because she had voted for the House impachment in quiry of President Bill Clinton. Willer of Martinez and Tauscher

rats who won re-election Tuesday in neighboring East Bay congressional districts. Tauscher is not a plaintiff in of Tassajara Valley are both Democ-

saying that they were behind it. Rein-cho said. 'Tm saying they were peo-ple most likely to know about it or to

Their attorney, Joseph Remcho, conceded Wednesday that he doesn't know that Ball and his campaign manager, Adrian Plesha, are responsible for the mailer:

be in a position to know about it. So that's where I'm going to start," Ball and Pleaha said they had nothing to do with the mailer and

party responsible, which is not the Ball campaign." Plesha said. As for the fraudulent maller and phone operation, he said. Tam appalled by it. (If Plesha and Ball had nothing to do with it, Remcho said, "then swear it we're outh that you don't know about it. We're cath that you don't know about it. We're cath that you don't know about it. We're cath that you don't know at least that muich?

of the mailer and one phone call would be roughly \$1 a household.

asked, would usually refuse to provide their phone number. Voters received the calls through Election Day.

One voter who insisted on speaking to a supervisor was given the As voters were opening mail Monday, they began receiving the calls urging them to vote for Democrats other than Tauscher. The callers, when

pager numes of Silicon Valley advace company. A spokesman for the company said Wednesday that the employee and the waylones and the management. ger number for an employee of

Party might have a claim in state court if they can determine who is reponsible, they might have a difficult time making a federal complaint.

That's because the wording seems carefully crafted to avoid federal carripaign finance laws, said Kent Cooper, a former official of Pederal Election Commission.

that recipients should vote for or or Tauscher, it never said outrigh While the intent of the mailer w clearly to encourage voters not to w

Political Editor Daniel Bore

San Francisco Chronicle



Dirty Trick Mailer Stirs Democrats

Tauscher attacked in unique, costly way

Forget the obvious winners and losers. The wildest twist in Tuesday's election was a last-minute attack on Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher — an assault so elaborate and audacious that even political veterans are stunned.

And while Tauscher won, state Democratic leaders are going to push hard to find who pulled the trigger.

Why? Because the stakes are huge. If outsiders can spend upwards of \$100,000 in a last-minute

Miller and the California Democratic Party already have struck back with a lawsuit against Tauscher's Republican opponent, Charles Ball, and his campaign committee. The charge: that they "directed, or are in a position to know the identity" of whoever "misled the voters, suppressed and diluted the vote of members of the Democratic Party..."

Ball and his campaign deny any role in, or knowledge of, what happened.

If nothing else, give the culprit credit for a unique approach.

"Campaigns are fertile ground for dirty tricks, but this takes the cake when it comes to below the belt attacks," says an incredulous Olivia Morgan, spokeswoman for the national Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "It's just despicable behavior."

Also shaking his head: Clint Reilly, who spent nearly two decades in the trenches as one of California's best-known political consultants.

"I've never seen something on that scale," says Reilly, now mulling a run for mayor of San Francisco. "To have somebody finance (an attack) on that level, get it printed and mailed, using the name of some incumbent congressman... It's unheard of."

It's also hard to trace. The let-

PAGE | OF |
SECTION: A

LOCATION: 19; 23

Gada, Cada

Faxed at 7:00 PM on November 2, 1998

Fraud Division Secretary of State Sacramento, CA

FAX 916-653-3214

I received the attached letter today in which "George Miller" of the "East Bay Democratic Committee" recommends to fellow Democrats that they not vote for Democratic Congressional candidate Ellen Tauscher because she "abandoned" President Clint and the Party by voting with Republicans for the Impeachment Inquiry.

I also received a similar telephone call this evening about 5:15 PM from a woman who said she was calling for the "East Bay Democratic Committee." She made the same statements and quickly hung up. I believe she was reading several sentences from the letter.

George Miller is the long-time Democratic Congressman from the East Bay and his name is known to all Democrats. The letter does not say it is from the Congressman, but that is the assumption any reader would make given the context. The inference that the letter is from Congressman Miller is heightened by the plea that the recipient vote for all other Democrats and only refrain from voting for Tauscher. I am told that Congressman Miller has repudiated the letter saying that he knows nothing about it

There is not an actual signature on the letter. The signature block says "George Miller, East Bay Democratic Committee."

I also enclose a copy of the envelope. The postmark is October 31, 1998 from Oakland, CA.

I am the only person whose fingerprints are on my copy of the letter (except for the person who sent it). I have placed it in a celophane cover and am turning it over to the Ellen Tauscher headquarters in Walnut Creek.

James L. Miller, Jr.

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

To:

Sec of State Fraud Div

Sent:

11/2/98 at 7:05:38 PM

Subject :

Fraudulent George Miller Letter

From:

James L Miller Jr.

Pages:

4 (including Cover)

TO FRAUD DIVISION

SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

ATTACHED IS A COPY OF THE FRAUDULENT GEORGE MILLER LETTER ASKING DEMOCRATS NOT TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRAT ÉLLEN TAUSCHER.

HAVE A COPY OF THE LETTER WITH NO FINGERPRINTS ON IT EXCEPT MINE AND THE SENDER (SEE MY LETTER)

園AMES L MILLER JR

(ADDRESS AND FAX ON ATTACHED LETTER)

John 11-2-98

COMPLAINANTS NAME MAYY M. FIXE EXHEL
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE NUMBER FAX NUMBER ()
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT COMPLAINT TOLAY'S MAIL I VECLIVED
a first marked class letter some attributed by to George Miller,
which is congressman, which he didn't write the letter. The letter
read says Hs from East Buy Democratic Committee. The return address
& a fictions address which is 1910 John F. Kennedy Drive in
Antrock. The content of the letter is concerning Ellen Tauscher, which
the is incumbert, "Slamming her "saying" Don't Vote for Ellen"
and reasons for clintons impeachment I am reporting a mailing
and viasons for clinton's implacement I am reporting a mailing doesn't to a voter from a gioup that visist that a address that doesn't
exist, and is not down't signed by stronge Miller strongs his
name is used.
ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS (Best time to call, other witnesses, etc.)
d 10
PERSON TAKING COMPLAINT (INITIALS) MY
DATE TIME_ 4:50

John 11-2-98

COMPLAINANTS NAME Mariorie Kimball
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE NUMBER FAX NUMBER ()
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT COMPLAINT
Phone rang and "East Bai Democratic Campaign" called
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John 11-29

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ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS (Best time to call, other witnesses, etc.)
PERSON TAKING COMPLAINT (INITIALS) DATE 11/2/94 TIME 5:18

COMPLAINANTS NAME FRAMMY PATYLY
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party. Do not support Ellen
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ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS (Best time to call, other witnesses, etc.)
Later tonight after 10:30
PERSON TAKING COMPLAINT (INITIALS)
DATE 11/2/98 TIME 4:50 PM

John 11-2-98

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George Miller
Gogener Don't vote Ellen Tauscher because she
abanlonel Pres Clinton + Don Party
Because she voted to imprach
ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS (Best time to call, other witnesses, etc.)
PERSON TAKING COMPLAINT (INITIALS) 615
DATE 11/2/98 TIME 5:45 pm

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John 11/2/98

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ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS (Best time to call, other witnesses, etc.)
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ADDRESS_	
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	for MS House of Rep)
ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION/INSTRU	JCTIONS (Best time to call, other witnesses, etc.)
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PERSON TAKING COMPLAINT (INITIALS)	
DATE 11/2/08 TIME	<u> 7 25 </u>

COMPLAINANTS NAME MIChael Barnett
ADDRESS_
TELEPHONE NUMBER FAX NUMBER ()
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT COMPLAINT
Received a letter à Phone call from
a fake Democratic Organization. Signed
by "George Miller" (local Congressionan) +
vote against the Democratic Candidate
Ellen Tanscher).
ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS (Best time to call, other witnesses, etc.)
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PERSON TAKING COMPLAINT (INITIALS)
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Mr. Gregory O. Bedard

November 9, 1998

Secretary of State
Election Fraud Investigative Unit
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to notify the Secretary of State's office of a case of voter fraud that may have occurred in California's 10th Congressional District, impacting on the election held on November 3, 1998.

Our household recently received a mailer from a group calling themselves the East Bay Democratic Committee, purporting to represent all Democrats in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area. This letter was postmarked in Oakland on October 31, 1998 and was received the day before midterm elections were to be held. Printed on the front of the envelope was a message that read "URGENT! VOTING INFORMATION ENCLOSED! OPEN IMMEDIATELY!" The return address was listed as 1960 John F. Kennedy Dr., Antioch, CA 94509.

The letter discussed how this committee would not support Representative Ellen Tauscher for reelection because of her stance on various issues. It then stated that because Tauscher was going to win reelection, loyal Democrats should not vote for her on election day to send her a message to change her voting record in Congress. The name printed on the bottom of the letter was "George Miller, East Bay Democratic Committee."

According to the Contra Costa Times and the San Francisco Chronicle, the group that sent out the mailers which called itself the East Bay Democratic Committee, does not exist. The city planner of Antioch has stated that no such street exists in that city by the name of John F. Kennedy Drive. Furthermore, this mailer purported to use Representative George Miller's name to urge voters not to vote for Tauscher. George Miller is in fact a strong supporter of Ellen Tauscher, and has condemned the mailer as an attempt to mislead voters. This misrepresentation is the crux of the matter.

There are 122,574 households in the 10th Congressional District with at least one registered Democrat, and many of these households received such mailers from the East

Bay Democratic Committee.⁴ Some of those who received mailers were also called later the same evening and told not to vote for Tauscher by members of the group.⁵ Our household was among those which received such a phone call. It is estimated that this fraudulent mailer scheme could have cost approximately \$100,000 to conduct.⁶ Meanwhile, citizens in the 10th Congressional District continue to be outraged by the attempt to subvert the election.⁷

Representative George Miller and the California Democratic Party have filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of Alameda County against the Republican candidate who opposed Tauscher in the recent election, Charles Ball, as well as his campaign committee. It is alleged that they may have information regarding the fraudulent voter guide campaign.

Free, honest, and unobstructed elections are the hallmark of our democracy. I urge your office to take strong measures to find those responsible for trying to subvert our democratically held elections. If voter fraud on such a scale is allowed to go unchallenged, future elections may be placed in jeopardy. Elections which hinge on the smallest of margins may be influenced by a similar abuse of our democracy. This is not just dirty politics. This is illegal. Voter fraud, mail fraud, and campaign finance laws may have been violated. Again, I urge you to conduct a strong and directed investigation.

I am confident that your office will do its utmost to ensure the integrity of California's electoral process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gregory O. Bedard

Enclosures

² Daniel Borenstein, Tauscher Target of Fake Flier, CONTRA COSTA TIMES, Nov. 3, 1998, at A1.

³ Id.

⁴ Daniel Borenstein, Lawsuit Targets Phony Mailer, Calls, CONTRA COSTA TIMES, Nov. 5, 1998, at A3.

⁵ Id.

⁶ John King, Dirty Trick Mailer Stirs Democrats, S.F. CHRON., Nov. 5, 1998, at A19.

Id.

8 Id.

9 Id.

EAST BAY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

"Representing all Democrats in the East Bay"

1960 John F. Kennedy Dr. Antioch, CA 94509

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

November 1st, 1998

Dear fellow Democrat.

Election day is drawing near and it is crucial that we support the Democratic team. The Republican party and big business will stop at nothing to derail our positive agenda for working families.

Each year we provide you with the slate of our Democratic team we are supporting. This year we have done the same for all major candidates in the East Bay who have been supportive of our President, Bill Clinton, and the goal of our party including 100.000 new teachers, a Patients Bill of Rights and protection of Social Security.

However, as loyal Democrats, we find it very troubling that Rep. Ellen Tauscher abandoned President Clinton and the Party when she voted with the Republicans to launch an Impeachment Inquiry in the personal life of a truly great President who has accomplished so much for the Democratic Party and working families.

It is with great regret that we will not be supporting the re-election of Rep. Ellen Tauscher because of her votes against the President and against our Party. Her voting with the Republicans on issues such as the impeachment inquiry, stealing from Social Security for tax cuts for the rich and minimum wage make her unacceptable to us.

We know that many Democrats have chosen to send her a message by not voting for her or against her on November 3rd because of her abandonment of the party. They have chosen simply not to vote for either candidate in the race for Congress.

And while we have chosen to not forget how Ellen Tauscher turned her back on our party we ask that you remember to support our Democrat team for the other offices on the ballot on Election day. Unfortunately, we have been left no choice but to send Ellen Tauscher a message. Because she abandoned us, we are abandoning her.

We could not support her opponent. And Ellen Tauscher will win re-election. But it is critical that she receive the message loud and clear. She must support our President to enjoy our support. Not voting for her is the best way for her to receive this message.

Thanks for remembering to support our other loyal Democrat candidates on the ballot on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

George Miller
East Bay Democratic Committee

EAST BAY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE "REPRESENTING ALL DEMOCRATS IN THE EAST BAY" 1960 JOHN F. KENNEDY DR. ANTIOCH, CA 94509

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John 11/2/98

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